

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR YVONNE B. BURKE

September 12, 2006

In times of crisis, man-made or natural, the American Red Cross has advised citizens to prepare beforehand to survive for a number of days while awaiting emergency responders. Los Angeles County and City continue to train communities to organize to assist neighbors and loved ones until help arrives. In this effort, the telephone is a vital link, but it can be overloaded when anxious people call to check on each other. A service option that would allow 911 callers to simultaneously notify pre-determined parties when paramedics, police or fire services are called, would be a boon to people who are responsible for the care of others and should they wish to purchase such a service, it should be available for them.

The City of Los Angeles has officially requested that the telecommunications companies explore the use of this new technology and that the services, if feasible, be made available for customers who wish to purchase this kind of notification service as a safety measure for themselves or loved ones. Los Angeles County should join the City

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in a request to the telecommunications industry to make such technology available for a price. In the case of a Senior Citizen, for example, family members would be notified that an emergency 911 call had been placed, and the parties could actually hear the call and perhaps reach the victim even before emergency responders arrived. In underserved communities, for example, this additional safety net could save lives and provide reassurances so needed in an urgent situation.

**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors send a 5-signature letter to the local telecommunication carriers, asking that the technology to provide such a service be explored and if feasible, made available to telephone customers who wish to purchase the services.

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YBB:ML:nra (ECHO 911 motion 091206)